

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9-12 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,865,533 (Addison). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Addison is directed generally to a method for converting text into synthesized speech. Of interest, the Examiner asserts that Addison discloses selecting a speaking style based on an identified topic of the input text. The Examiner relies on column 24, lines 15-21 to teach this aspect of the present invention. Applicant notes that this portion of the reference teaches a technique for selecting preferred pronunciation rules (see col. 24, lines 54-59), where the pronunciation rules may embody a particular expressive style. In this case, the speaking style appears to be selected by a certified Lessac practitioner (see col. 23, lines 48-51), but it is unclear as to how the speaking style is selected by the practitioner. Moreover, once a final rule selection occurs, artificial intelligence processing is used to select a suitable pronunciation rule from amongst the final rule set which may then be applied to input text. Again, it is unclear as to how the artificial intelligence processing selects a suitable rule. At best, the selection appears to be based on the likely listener (see col. 23, lines 16-19). Therefore,

Applicant respectfully asserts that Addison fails to teach or suggest selecting a speaking style based on an identified topic of the input text.

Applicant's invention is likewise directed to a method for generating synthesized speech. However, Applicant's claimed invention recites "selecting a speaking style from a plurality of predefined speaking styles based on the identified topic, where each speaking style correlates to prosodic parameters" in combination with other elements of the claims. Independent Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to more clearly define this aspect of the present invention. Since Addison fails to disclose this aspect of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention defines patentable subject matter over Addison. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection

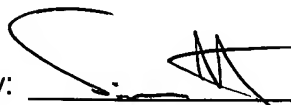
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42,824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/mas